

"Satchel" Paige. The Grays claim Buck Leonard, another first baseman and home run hitter, as well as Ray Brown, who in 1940 had the greatest season of any Negro league pitcher ever with 24 wins and only 4 losses. Catcher and power-hitter Josh Gibson was another of the stars of the Homestead Grays. Gibson has the distinction of having hit a 505-foot home run in Yankee Stadium—a feat matched or exceeded by no one, not even Babe Ruth (and in fact, only Dave Winfield and Doug DeCinces have even come close). I am pleased to note that Josh Gibson, Jr., who also played professional baseball, will receive a plaque at this ceremony in honor of his father.

I'd like to note in passing that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission put up a State historic marker to honor the Homestead Grays on the 100th anniversary of their founding. That marker, which was dedicated last week, can be found at the intersection of Amity Street and Fifth Avenue in Homestead, PA.

The October 13th ceremony will also honor Bill Mazerowski, long-time second baseman for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Mazerowski, who played for the Pirates from 1956 until 1972, was a great infielder and defensive player. Maz won eight Gold Gloves and was picked as an All-Star seven times. He holds the record as the second-baseman with the most double plays in Major League history—1,706—and the most double plays in one season—161 in 1966. He holds the Major League record for the most seasons leading the league in assists, and in five of those nine seasons, he was credited with 500 or more assists. For these accomplishments, if for nothing else, he deserves admission to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, an honor which to this date he has been unfairly denied.

Despite a long career of excellence in fielding, however, Maz is probably best remembered for his winning home run in the 1960 World Series against one of the greatest Yankees teams ever—a team that included baseball greats Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, and Yogi Berra. In the seventh game of the 1960 World Series, the Yankees and the Pirates were tied at three games apiece. In the bottom of the ninth inning, with the score tied at nine runs for each team, Bill Mazerowski knocked a home run over the left center field wall of Forbes Field, and the Pirates won the World Series four games to three with a score of 10 to 9. That one magnificent achievement has tended to obscure the remainder of William Stanley Mazerowski's outstanding career in Major League baseball. Mr. Mazerowski will also receive a plaque at the October 13th ceremony in acknowledgment of his many accomplishments on the 40th anniversary of his famous home run.

The ceremony will also highlight plans for the painting of two new wall murals on the wall that runs along the Boulevard of the Allies in Pittsburgh. One of these murals will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Homestead Grays. The other will honor Mr. Mazerowski. The brass plaques that Mr. Mazerowski and Mr. Gibson will receive during the ceremony will be mounted alongside these murals. I believe that this is a fitting tribute to two of Pittsburgh's outstanding sports teams and two of Pittsburgh's greatest sports heroes.

#### TRIBUTE TO BROTHER MARTIN MCMURTREY

#### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and pay tribute to a true San Antonio legend, Brother Martin McMurtrey. After 56 years of service as an educator in the Society of Mary Catholic schools, 49 of those years being spent at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, TX, Brother McMurtrey has announced his retirement.

Having received a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Dayton in 1942, and a master of education degree from St. Louis University in 1949, Brother McMurtrey first entered a classroom as a teacher in 1944. Shortly after, in 1951, Brother McMurtrey moved to San Antonio and began teaching at Central Catholic.

During his years at Central Catholic, Brother McMurtrey taught courses in English and drafting, coached football, authored two books, and dedicated countless hours to working with the disadvantaged in San Antonio parishes. I know that even though he is retiring, Brother McMurtrey will continue teaching all of us. As a matter of fact, I am sure that he will check the spelling and grammar of this entry in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In addition, Brother McMurtrey established a scholarship fund to assist students who could otherwise not afford to attend Catholic schools. He also spent 22 years volunteering after school as a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher and as a worker with the Presentation Nuns. He also organized the Guardian Angels at Central Catholic, an organization that guided student collections of food, toys, and clothing during holiday seasons.

It is estimated that during his half-century of service, Brother McMurtrey touched the lives of some 6,000 students. Those students have gone on to careers in education, medicine, law, public service, and countless other fields. Indeed the impact that Brother McMurtrey has had on the lives of his students and on the San Antonio community is immeasurable.

Upon hearing Brother McMurtrey's announcement, several former Central Catholic students joined together to plan a retirement celebration aptly titled "The Last English Class." Mr. Speaker, today I join those students in thanking Brother McMurtrey for enriching the lives of all who had the privilege of his mentorship.

#### TRIBUTE TO SGT. MAJOR BILLY RAY LANEY OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

#### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a fallen soldier from my home state of Alabama. It is a most unusual day for my district, today they are welcoming home Sgt. Maj. Laney 33 years after they sent him off to

serve his country in the Vietnam War. Laney's widow, Charline and his three grown children, Wanda, Billy Ray Jr. and Vicky deserve our recognition for the sacrifices they have endured these many years. As their husband and father is laid to rest in the soil he fought and died to protect, I would like to offer my condolences to the family and express my utmost gratitude for Sgt. Maj. Laney's brave actions.

Sgt. Maj. Laney was only in Vietnam for one month. He was a member of the 5th Special Forces Group of the 1st Airborne Division and was listed as missing in action June 3, 1967 in Laos. Although the Department of Defense declared him deceased eleven years ago, his family has had no physical evidence of his death until two months ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Veterans Groups of my district: Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart and Disabled American Veterans for going to extraordinary efforts to ensure that Sgt. Maj. Laney's life and death and his families' sacrifices will not be forgotten. Today as Sgt. Maj. Laney's remains are returned home, though tardy, he will be honored properly. Governor Don Siegelman, the Honor Guard and the Alabama State Patrol are traveling to join the procession and to pay their respects to this brave soldier and his family.

Sgt. Maj. Billy Ray Laney's retrieval sheds light on the POW/MIAs still unaccounted for across the country. There are two soldiers from Alabama listed as missing, Prentice Wayne Hicks and Edward Upner. I would like to take this opportunity to say that my thoughts are with their families and let them know that there is still hope that we will uncover their fate.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I would like to pay tribute to Sgt. Maj. Billy Ray Laney and his loving family. We can never afford to forget the victories and sacrifices of our veterans like Sgt. Maj. Laney lest we take for granted the precious freedoms we enjoy every minute of every day. My thoughts and prayers are with them today as they welcome their husband and father home to rest.

#### ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, September 25, 2000, marked International Ataxia Awareness Day. Ataxia disorders comprise a family of progressive, degenerative, neurological illnesses which affect more than 100,000 American families, including many in my District. Ataxia usually initially affects coordination, speech, and balance, but various forms often progress to impact the heart, sight, and hearing.

Unfortunately, there are no effective treatments for this often fatal disease. Worse, our very limited understanding of most forms of the disorder has not even produced any effective treatments. Hopefully we can increase awareness of this serious public health threat and spur the type of progress which will bring hope to the thousands of American families dealing with Ataxia.